

MEMORANDUM

~~A. macost~~

DA

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

7 4355-X

plus speed

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~
NODIS ATTACHMENT

ACTION

to Lipsh

July 6, 1977

ZB.

Remind me to call Lipshutz @ left hand

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
DAVID AARON *DB*

FROM:

MIKE ARMACOST *MA*

SUBJECT:

Request from Don Fraser for MemCon on President Ford Meeting with President Suharto

ZB - I don't like to write to him of things - a longer mem with the core
COPY CARTER LIBRARY

We have had a formal request for a document which, if turned over to Congressman Fraser, could have a mischievous effect on our relations with Indonesia. Attached is the memorandum of conversation in which Ford and Kissinger -- for reasons which I do not understand -- went out of their way on the eve of the GOI move on Timor to assure Suharto of an understanding attitude by the U.S. I have clipped the relevant portions of the cable. They indicate that Ford and Kissinger were given some advance notice of Indonesian plans to incorporate Timor; that they flagged potential problems that could attend the use of US-made arms; that they gently urge Suharto to hold off any action until they got home; and that they did not make any significant effort to dissuade the Indonesian Government from doing what it thought necessary in dealing with the problem.

State evidently has told Fraser in very general terms of the contents of this conversation. He now wants the document as part of his continuing inquiry into the Timor situation. There is little doubt that if he gets hold of it, this will become a public issue, which in turn could precipitate the following adverse consequences:

-- It would create a very damaging precedent in terms of preserving the confidentiality surrounding Presidential meetings with foreign leaders that is essential to any orderly process of foreign policy-making.

-- Kissinger may regard it as part of a deliberate effort to embarrass him, and take the gloves off against the Administration on foreign policy matters.

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~
NODIS ATTACHMENT - XGDS

4/1/00 NSC NLG-94-147
5/7/01

